

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 0 876 091 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

published in accordance with Art. 158(3) EPC

(43) Date of publication:

04.11.1998 Bulletin 1998/45

(51) Int. Cl.⁶: H05K 13/02

(21) Application number: 96942652.7

(86) International application number:

PCT/JP96/03804

(22) Date of filing: 26.12.1996

(87) International publication number:

WO 97/24912 (10.07.1997 Gazette 1997/30)

(84) Designated Contracting States:

DE GB

(30) Priority: 28.12.1995 JP 342822/95

(71) Applicant:

MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC INDUSTRIAL CO., LTD.

Kadoma-shi, Osaka-fu, 571 (JP)

(72) Inventors:

• ANDO, Takashi

Kofu-shi, Yamanashi 400 (JP)

• INOUE, Mamoru

Hirakata-shi, Osaka 573 (JP)

(74) Representative:

Eisenführ, Spelser & Partner

Martinistrasse 24

28195 Bremen (DE)

(54) PART SUPPLYING DEVICE

(57) The present invention is intended to feed components stably and speedily in a component feed apparatus whereby components stored in the form of a taped component, while being transferred along a component feed guide, are sequentially supplied to a predetermined position to be mounted to a printed board.

In order to accomplish the object, a magnet 28a is set in the vicinity of a slit 15 of a component feed guide

2 where a covering tape 1b is separated. The magnet magnetically attracts the component, thereby to prevent the component from being forcibly dragged together with the covering tape when the covering tape is separated. Quick and stable supply of the component can be accordingly ensured.

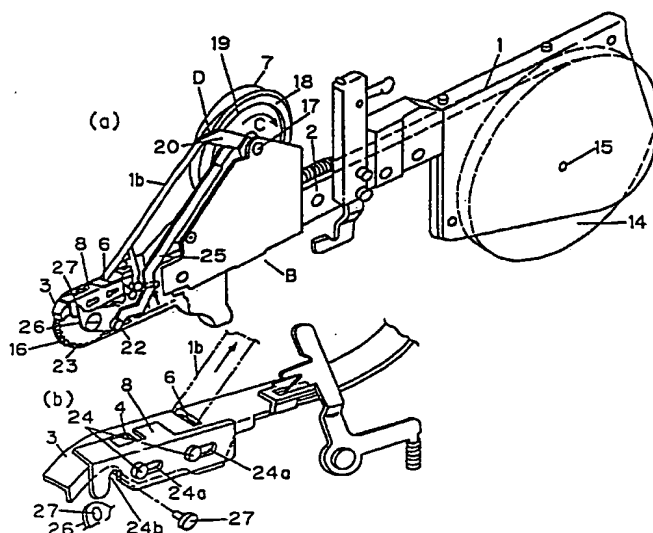


Fig. 1

EP 0 876 091 A1

Description

Technical Field

The present invention relates to a component feed apparatus and more particularly, to a component feed apparatus fit for various kinds of usage, e.g., wherein a taping-component, i.e., taped component accommodating components with a predetermined pitch in a longitudinal direction of a tape is moved along a component feed guide thereby to sequentially supply the components to a predetermined position to mount to an electronic circuit board.

Background Art

A conventional component feed apparatus will be described with reference to Figs. 1 and 2. 1 denotes a taped component which consists of component accommodating section 1c for storing components 5 with a predetermined pitch in a longitudinal direction of a tape 1a, and a covering tape 1b covering the component accommodating sections 1c. The taped component 1 is taken out along an upper face of a component feed guide 2 and moved to a component feed port 4 of a retainer cover 3 hanging over a front end part of the component feed guide 2. During the transfer, the taped component 1 is drawn out through a slit 6 notched from one side of the retainer cover 3 in front of the component feed port 4 and wound to a reel 7 after the covering tape 1b is separated from the tape 1a. The tape 1a is consequently sent to the component feed port 4, with the component accommodating sections 1c exposed. However, the exposed component accommodating sections 1c are covered with the retainer cover 3, so that the components can be stably fed to the component feed port 4 without popping out.

The retainer cover 3 has a shutter 8 for preventing components 5 from popping outside unexpectedly. The shutter 8 is set in a manner to open and close an upper face of the component feed port 4 in association with an operation of feeding the components 5. Only when the components are to be taken out by a suction nozzle 10 or the like, the shutter 8 is opened to allow the component to be sucked by the suction nozzle 10 in a proper attitude.

In the component feed apparatus constituted as above, the component 5 crackles with annoying static elasticity when the covering tape 1b is drawn out from the slit 6 formed in the retainer cover 3 and wound to the reel 7, as illustrated in Fig. 6(a). As a result, the component 5 is extracted and levitates out from the component accommodating section 1c as the covering tape 1b is wound up. Particularly in the case of a considerably minute component (for instance, much small 1.0mm length, 0.5mm breadth), the component 5 might be caught by the retainer cover 3 and might clog between the component feed guide 2 and retainer cover 3. Or the

component 5 sometimes bites into the slit 6 because of vibrations and impacts, etc. at the component feed time.

As shown in Fig. 6(b), further, when the shutter 8 is opened to suck the component 5 located at the component feed port 4 by the suction nozzle 10, in some cases, the component rises inside the component accommodating section 1c due to vibrations, shocks or the like in supplying components, whereby the component cannot be sucked in a proper attitude by the suction nozzle 10. As a result, mounting errors might be occurred.

Disclosure Of Invention

The main object of the present invention is therefore to provide a component feed apparatus which can stably and speedily feed components, taking into consideration with the aforementioned problems inherent in the prior art.

A component feed apparatus of the present invention is characterized by comprising: a component feed guide for so guiding a taped component as to be fed in one direction, the taped component including component accommodating sections for storing components with a predetermined pitch in a longitudinal direction of a tape, a covering tape with which these component accommodating sections are covered, and feed holes arranged via an equal distance; a retainer cover which can cover the taped component guided by this component feed guide; a separating means which can separate the covering tape of the taped component; a feed means for intermittently sending the taped component in one direction and a take-up means which can take up the covering tape separated by the separating means, in which a magnet is installed at least in the vicinity of the separating means of the component feed guide to magnetically attract components.

According to an invention of claim 2, in the invention of claim 1 the magnet is installed at a position to magnetically attract the component before separated from the covering tape, the component while being separated from the covering tape, or the component after separated from the covering tape.

According to an invention of claim 3, it is characterized in that the magnet for magnetically attracting components is set at least in the vicinity of a component feed port of a component feed guide where the component is sucked, held and taken outside.

According to an invention of claim 4, in the invention of claim 3 the magnet is set immediately under the component feed port.

According to an invention of Claim 5, it is characterized in that the magnet for magnetically attracting components is set to extend from the vicinity of a separating means of a component feed guide to the vicinity of a component feed port where the component is sucked, held and taken out.

According to an invention of claim 6, in the invention

of any one of claims 3-5, the magnet is further provided with an opening which lets in and out a push pin which can push up the component from below at the component feed port.

Brief Description Of Drawings

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a component feed apparatus and a taped component in an embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 2 is a side view of an essential portion of the component feed apparatus of the embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of a mounting apparatus indicating a state when the component feed apparatus of the present invention is used.

Fig. 4 is a sectional view of the component feed apparatus of the embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 5 is a plan view of a component feed guide in the embodiment of the present invention.

Fig. 6 is a sectional view of an essential portion of a conventional component feed apparatus.

Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

According to the present invention, in a component feed apparatus sequentially feeding components to a component feed port by moving a taped component (taping-component) along a component feed guide, is sucked by a magnetic attraction force of a magnet the component stored in a component accommodating section located in the vicinity of a separating means, so that the component is prevented from being pulled together with a covering tape when the covering tape is separated or from biting into the separating means due to vibrations or shocks, etc. at the component feed time. The component feed apparatus is effective to supply components quickly and stably.

In the constitution of the present invention according to claims 3 and 4, the magnet installed in the vicinity of the component feed port magnetically attracts and holds the component sent to the component feed port, so that the component at the component feed port is prevented from being shifted from a proper attitude under influences of vibrations, etc. The magnet is accordingly effective to stabilize the attitude of components.

In the constitution of the present invention according to claim 5, during the movement of the taped component to the component feed port along the component feed guide, the magnet magnetically attracts and holds the components in the component accommodating sections, thus contributing to safety transfer of the components until the component is sucked by a suction nozzle, and moreover stabilization of the attitude of components at the component feed port.

In the constitution of the present invention accord-

ing to claim 6, the component magnetically attracted by the magnet is pushed up from below when taken out by the suction nozzle, so that the component can be sucked more surely by the suction nozzle.

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to Figs. 1, 2, 3, and 4.

(Embodiment 1)

A component feed apparatus according to the Embodiment shows an example which is adopted, for instance, to automatically feed a component 5 to a printed board 11 in an electronic component mounting apparatus A as shown in Fig. 3. Needless to say, however, the component feed apparatus is generally applicable to various kinds of components. A component feed table 12 is set beside the mounting apparatus A, on which component feed apparatuses B of a count of types of components 5 required for the mounting apparatus A are loaded. The component feed apparatus B holding the components 5 of the required type at that time is moved to a position where it faces the mounting apparatus A, and the component 5 is sucked by a suction nozzle 10 at a component mounting head 9 of the mounting apparatus A and mounted to the printed board 11. The printed board 11 is placed on an XY table 13 which is movable in X, Y directions orthogonal to each other. The component 5 sucked by the suction nozzle 10 and carried to a mounting position under the movement control in the X, Y directions is mounted to a predetermined position on the printed board 11. At this time, the suction nozzle 10, instead of the printed board 11, can be moved in X, Y directions to mount the component 5 to the predetermined position of the printed board 11.

The component feed apparatus B stores each component 5 in a component accommodating section 1c provided every predetermined pitch in a longitudinal direction of a tape 1a shown at (c), (d) in Fig. 1. The apparatus B handles a taped component 1 covered with a covering tape 1b. The taped component 1 is, as indicated by (a) in Fig. 1, wound to an accommodating reel 14 which is fitted in a rotatable and detachable fashion to a supporting shaft 15 at a rear end part of a component feed guide 2.

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, the component feed apparatus B takes out the taped component 1 wound in the accommodating reel 14 therefrom along an upper face of the component feed guide 2 and moves the taped component towards a component feed port 4 through between the component feed guide 2 and a retainer cover 3 hanging over a front end part of the component feed guide 2. The component is sucked and held at the component feed port 4 formed in the retainer cover 3 to be taken out therefrom.

Regarding the movement of the taped component 1, a sprocket 16 provided as a feed means at the front end part of the component feed guide 2 is meshed with

feed holes 1d formed at the taped component 1, so that the taped component 1 is transferred through the rotation of the sprocket 16. In the middle of the movement of the taped component 1, the covering tape 1b is drawn out through a slit 6 as a separating means notched from one side of the retainer cover 3 immediately in front of the component feed port 4, then separated from the tape 1a and wound to a reel 7 as a take-up means. Although the slit is notched from one side of the retainer cover 3 is used as the separating means in the present Embodiment, any constitution can be used so long as the covering tape 1b can be drawn out.

As shown in Fig. 1(a), the reel 7 is so constructed on a supporting shaft 17 above a middle part of the component feed guide 2 as to rotate only in a take-up direction of the covering tape 1b designated by an arrow C. A ratchet mechanism 19 including a ratchet gear 18 is further provided. Every time a feed lever 20 pivotally supported to the supporting shaft 17 is pressed and turned in a direction of an arrow D by an operating mechanism 21 set at a component feed position as shown in Fig. 3, the sprocket 16 is driven via a link-lever mechanism 22 and a ratchet mechanism 23 interlocking with the link-lever mechanism 22 and the reel 7 is driven via the ratchet mechanism 19 of the reel 7. In the constitution as above, one component is supplied through the movement of the taped component 1 by a predetermined distance, and simultaneously with this, the covering tape 1b is taken up by a predetermined length. Consequently, the tape 1a in a state exposing the component accommodating sections 1c subsequent to the separation of the covering tape 1b is sent to the component feed port 4.

As shown at (a), (b) in Fig. 1, a shutter 8 is provided which opens and closes the component feed port 4 to the retainer cover 3 in association with the operation of feeding of components 5, so that the components 5 are prevented from popping out unexpectedly. The shutter 8 is movably set in a front-and-rear direction by pins 24 and long holes 24a set at a bent side wall of the retainer cover 3. A downward notch 24b of the shutter 8 is engaged with a pin 27 on a lever member 26 to which the motion of the feed lever 20 of the link-lever mechanism 22 is transmitted via a link 25, when the component feed port 4 is opened in association with the feed operation of the component 5. On the other hand, the component feed port 4 is closed when the component 5 is not supplied. In other words, only when the component 5 is to be taken out by the suction nozzle 10 the shutter 8 opens to suck the component and mount the component to the printed board 11.

As is clearly shown in Figs. 4(a) and 5(a), a magnet 28a is installed in the vicinity of the slit 6 of the component feed guide 2 where the covering tape 1b is separated. The magnet 28a has enough magnetism to feed the component stably while holding an attitude of the component in accordance with a size and a mass of the component (approximately 100 gauss in the present

Embodiment). Then, even if static electricity is caused between the covering tape 1b and component 5 when the covering tape 1b is taken out through the slit 6 and wound to the reel 7, thereby dragging the component 5 in accordance with the winding of the covering tape 1b, or the magnet 28a magnetically attracts the component located in the vicinity of the slit 6 to hold it even in the presence of vibrations or impacts, etc. at feeding the components. Thus, the magnetic attraction force of the magnet 28a can prohibit the component 5 from floating out of the component accommodating section 1c and clogging between the retainer cover 3 and component feed guide 2 or biting into the slit 6. The component can be accordingly supplied to the component feed port 4 quickly and stably.

In the present Embodiment, the magnet 28a is arranged in the vicinity of the slit 6. However, the magnet 28a may be sheet-shaped and embedded in the component feed guide 2. Any magnetic substance is utilizable for the purpose, not limited to a magnet.

So long as the component 5 is prevented from clogging between the retainer cover 3 and component feed guide 2 or biting into the separating means 6, for example, the magnet 28d can be provided, as denoted by 28d in Fig. 4(d), at a position of the component 5 before the covering tape 1b separated by the slit 6 as the separating means, or at a position of the component 5 immediately after the covering tape 1b is separated as represented by 28e in Fig. 4(e).

(Embodiment 2)

A magnet 28b is set in the vicinity of the component feed port 4 of the component feed guide 2 where the component is sucked by the suction nozzle 10, as shown in Figs. 4(b) and 5(b). Since the component 5 located at the component feed port 4 is magnetically attracted by the magnet 28b, the component 5 can be prevented from being shifted in attitude, that is, erected upright due to vibrations or the like at feeding components while the shutter 8 is opened and then the component is sucked by the suction nozzle 10. The component can be taken outside in a proper attitude.

(Embodiment 3)

As is clear in Figs. 4(c) and 5(c), a magnet 28c of 3mm breadth, 20mm length and 1mm thickness is arranged to extend under the component feed guide 2 from the vicinity of the slit 6 where the covering tape 1b is separated to the vicinity of the component feed port 4 where the component is taken out by the suction nozzle 10. The magnet 28c exerts magnetism enough (approximately 100 gauss in the present Embodiment) to stably supply the component with keeping the attitude of the component in accordance with a size and a mass of the component. The component 5 in the component accommodating section 1c is held by the magnetic attraction

force of the magnet 28c during the transfer to the component feed port 4 along the component feed guide 2, and therefore the component 5 can be fed stably during the transfer thereof before the component is sucked by the se nozzle 10. Moreover, the component 5 is kept stable in attitude at the component feed port 4. Although nearly 70 among 10000 components are sucked improperly by the suction nozzle 10 in the conventional apparatus, the failure can be limited to merely 0-1 according to the present Embodiment. As a result, defective mounting to the printed board 11 can be avoided.

(Embodiment 4)

As indicated in Fig. 2, a push pin 29 is provided under the component feed port 4, which can push up the component 5 at the component feed port 4. In Fig. 5(d), a hole 32 as an opening is formed in the magnet 28d at a position corresponding to the component feed port 4. The push pin 29 can move in and out through the hole 32. When a push lever 30 is driven in a direction of an arrow E by a driving source (not illustrated), the push pin 29 is so constructed to be pushed up in a direction of an arrow F from below via a link 31.

Owing to the arrangement, even if the magnetic force of the magnet 28d extending from the vicinity of the slit 6 of the component feed guide 2 to the vicinity of the component feed port 4 is so intense as to hinder the component 5 from being taken outside by the suction nozzle 10, the component can be surely sucked by the suction nozzle 10 with the help of the push pin 29 pushing the component 5 from below. A suction rate of the components by the suction nozzle 10 is improved greatly.

While the hole is provided in the present Embodiment, an opening or space allowing the push pin to move in and out, for example, a square opening may be applicable. Or the magnet may be divided via a space and the space is allotted for the push pin.

Industrial Applicability

As described hereinabove, according to the present invention, the component feed apparatus of the present invention comprises the component feed guide for guiding a taped component to be fed in one direction, the taped component including the component accommodating sections for storing components with a predetermined pitch in a longitudinal direction of a tape, the covering tape covering these component accommodating sections and the feed holes arranged via an equal distance, the retainer cover for covering the taped component guided by this component feed guide, the separating means which can separate the covering tape of the taped component, the feed means for intermittently sending the taped component in one direction and, the take-up means for taking up the covering tape sepa-

rated by the separating means. Particularly in the constitution according to the invention of claims 1 and 2, the component stored in the component accommodating section in the vicinity of the separating means is magnetically attracted by the magnet, so that the component can be prevented from being dragged together with the covering tape when the covering tape is separated or biting into the separating means due to vibrations, impacts or the like at the component feed time. The components can be supplied quickly and stably.

In the constitution according to the invention of claims 3 and 4, the magnet installed in the vicinity of the component feed port magnetically attracts and holds the component carried to the component feed port, and therefore the component at the component feed port can be prevented from being shifted from a proper attitude by the influences of vibrations at the component feed time. The magnet effectively stabilizes the attitude of components.

In the constitution according to the invention of claim 5, while the taped component is transferred to the component feed port along the component feed guide, the component in the component accommodating section is magnetically attracted and held by the magnet, and therefore the component during the transfer thereof before taken out by the suction nozzle can be fed stably. Moreover, the component can be stabilized in attitude at the component feed port, so that the component can be taken out in a proper attitude by the suction nozzle. As a result, defective mounting of components to the printed board can be eliminated.

In the constitution according to claim 6, when the component magnetically attracted by the magnet is taken outside by the suction nozzle, the component is pushed up from below, and therefore the component can be more surely sucked by the suction nozzle. A suction rate can be remarkably improved.

List of Reference Symbols of Drawings

1	taped component
2	component feed guide
3	retainer cover
4	component feed port
5	component
6	slit
10	suction nozzle
28a	magnet
28b	magnet
28c	magnet
28d	magnet
29	push pin

Claims

1. A component feed apparatus which is characterized by comprising:

a component feed guide for so guiding a taped component as to be fed in one direction, said taped component including component accommodating sections storing components with a predetermined pitch in a longitudinal direction of a tape, a covering tape covering these component accommodating sections and feed holes arranged via an equal distance;

a retainer cover which can cover the taped component guided by this component feed guide;

a separating means which can strip the covering tape from the taped component;

a feed means for intermittently sending the taped component in the one direction; and
a take-up means which can take up the covering tape separated by the separating means,

wherein a magnet is set at least in vicinity of the separating means of the component feed guide to magnetically attract the component.

2. A component feed apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the magnet is set at such a position as to magnetically attract the component before the covering tape is separated, the component while the covering tape is separated or the component after the covering tape is separated.

3. A component feed apparatus which is characterized by comprising:

a component feed guide for so guiding a taped component as to be fed in one direction, said taped component including component accommodating sections storing components with a predetermined pitch in a longitudinal direction of a tape, a covering tape covering these component accommodating sections and feed holes arranged via an equal distance;

a retainer cover which can cover the taped component guided by this component feed guide;

a separating means which can strip the covering tape from the taped component;

a feed means for intermittently sending the taped component in the one direction; and
a take-up means which can take up the covering tape separated by the separating means,

wherein a magnet for magnetically attracting the component is set at least in vicinity of a component feed port of the component feed guide where the component is sucked, held and taken outside.

4. A component feed apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the magnet is installed immediately under the component feed port.

5. A component feed apparatus which is characterized by comprising:

a component feed guide for so guiding a taped component as to be fed in one direction, said taped component including component accommodating sections storing components with a predetermined pitch in a longitudinal direction of a tape, a covering tape covering these component accommodating sections and feed holes arranged via an equal distance;

a retainer cover which can cover the taped component guided by this component feed guide;

a separating means which can strip the covering tape from the taped component;

a feed means for intermittently sending the taped component in the one direction; and
a take-up means which can take up the covering tape separated by the separating means,

wherein a magnet for magnetically attracting the component is set to extend from vicinity of the separating means to vicinity of the component feed port of the component feed guide where the component is sucked, held and taken outside.

6. A component feed apparatus according to any one of claims 3-5, wherein the magnet has an opening through which a push pin pushing up the component from below at the component feed port is let in and out.

Fig. 1

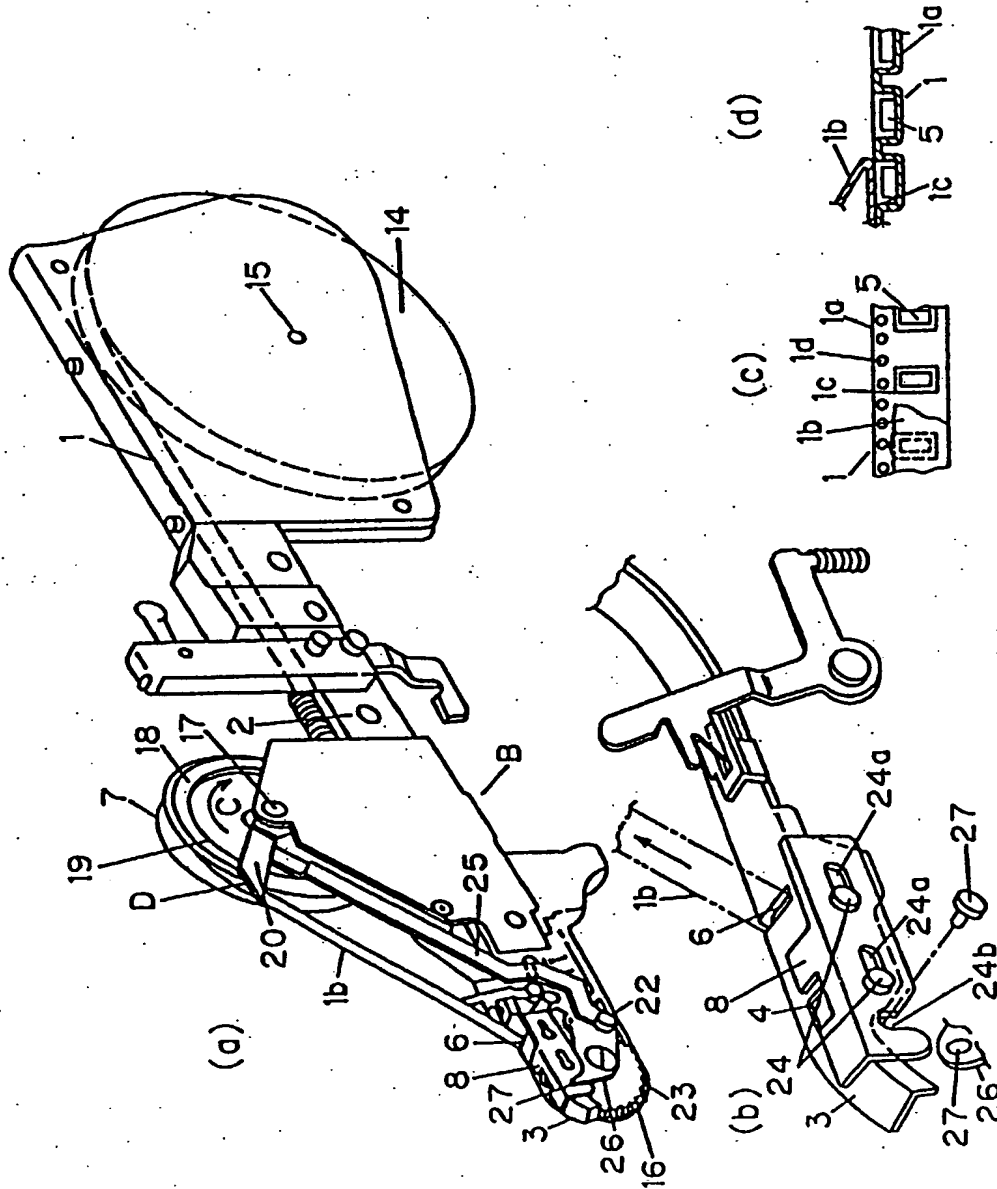


Fig.3

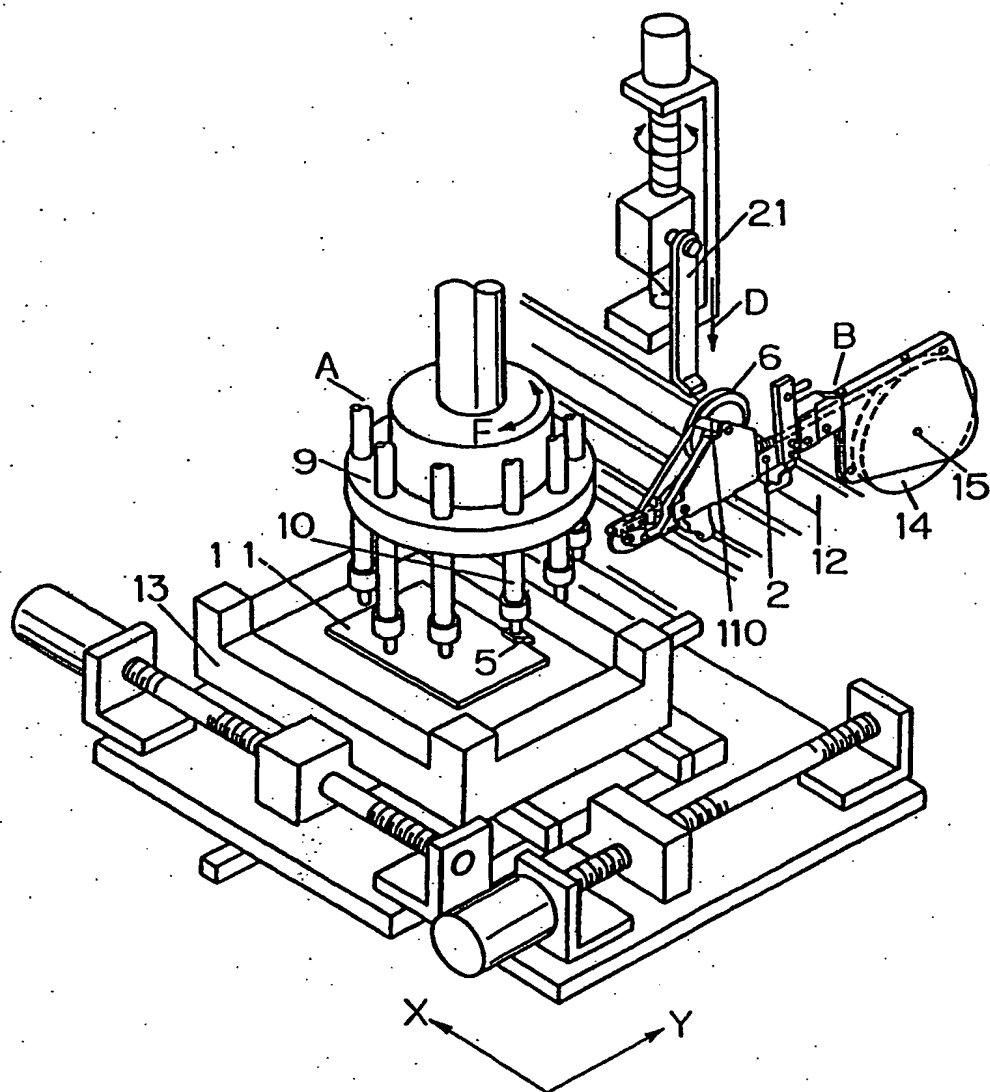


Fig.4

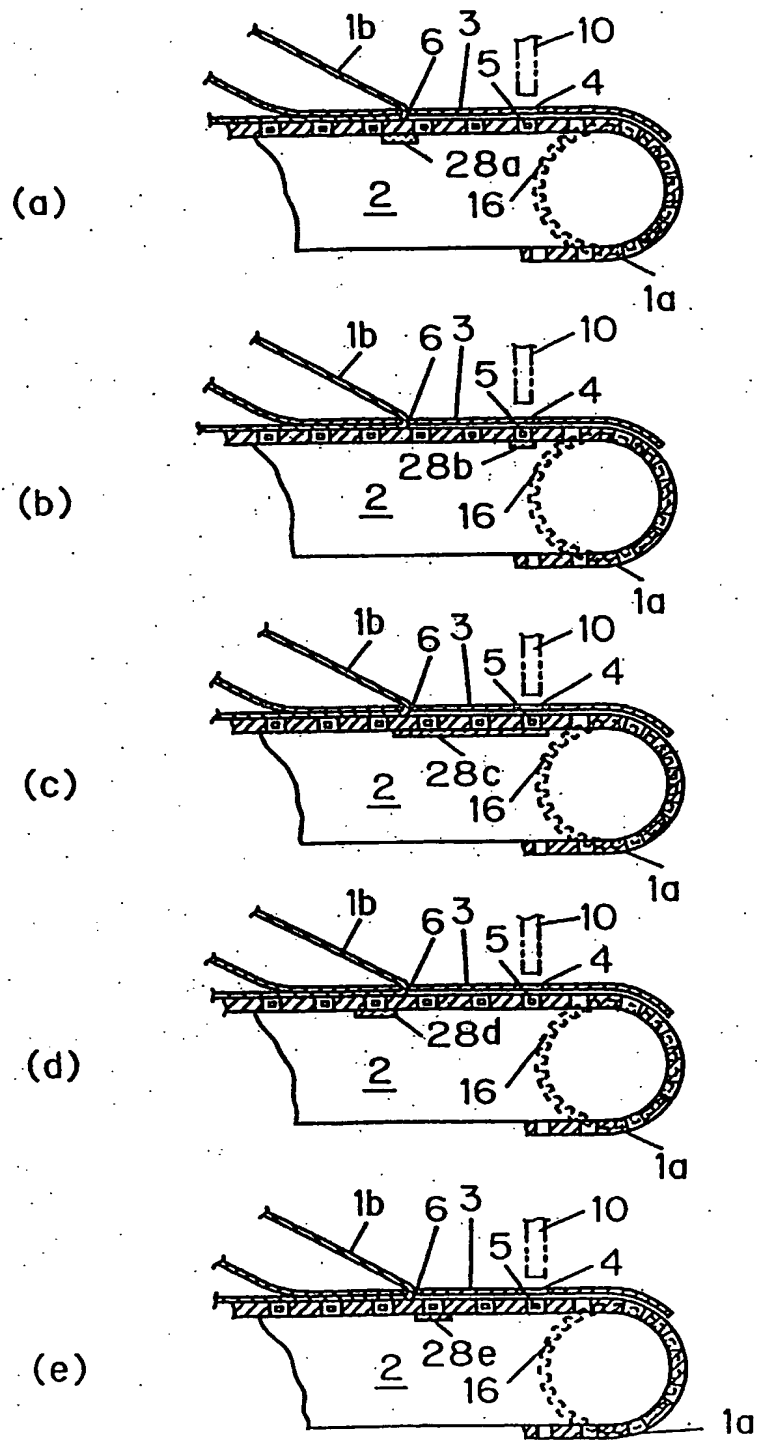


Fig.5

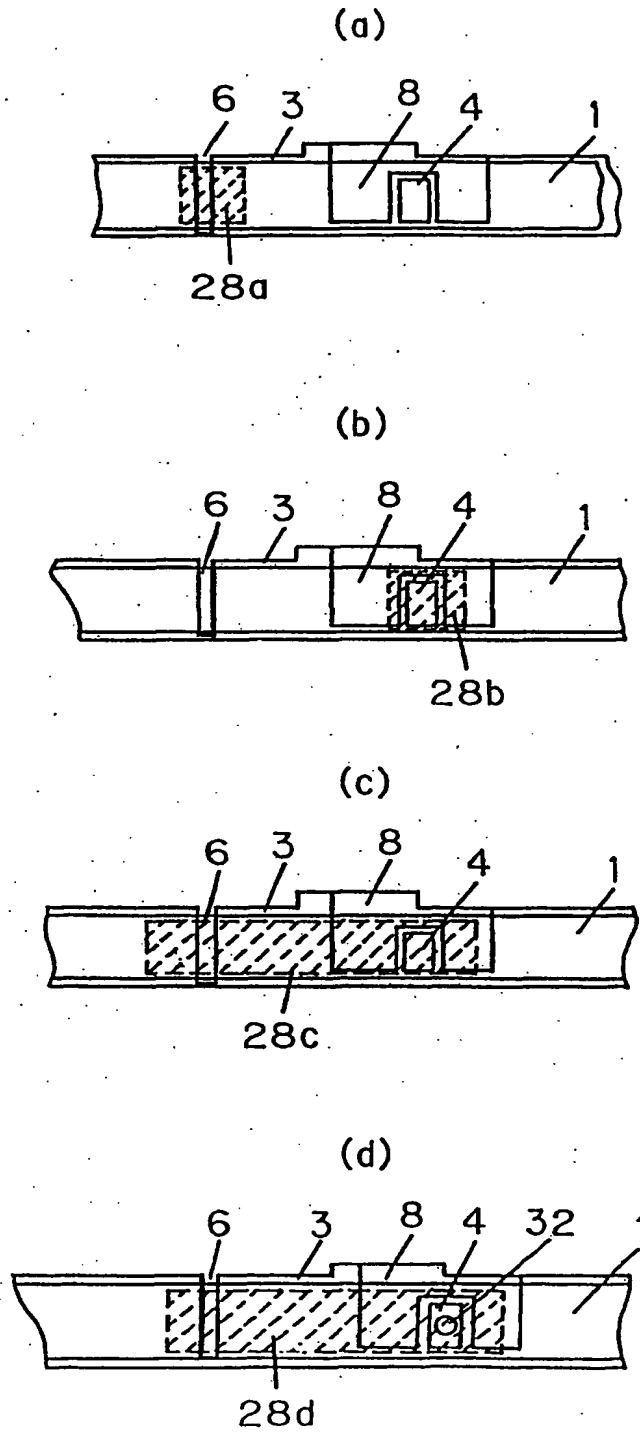
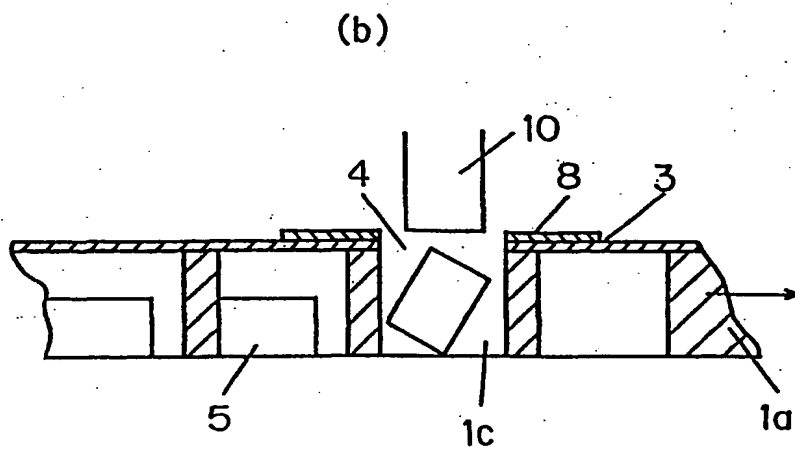
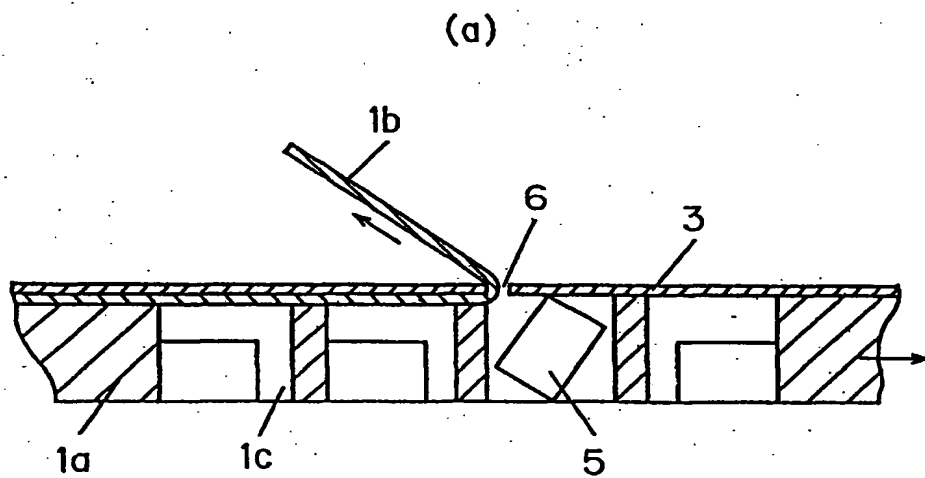


Fig.6



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP96/03804

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int. Cl ⁶ H05K13/02 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC														
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int. Cl ⁶ H05K13/00-13/08, B23P21/00 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1926 - 1997 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971 - 1997 Koho 1996 - 1997 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994 - 1997 Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)														
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category*</th> <th>Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages</th> <th>Relevant to claim No.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>X</td> <td>JP, 7-38286, A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), February 7, 1995 (07. 02. 95) (Family: none)</td> <td>1 - 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>JP, 64-24900, U (Alps Electric Co., Ltd.), February 10, 1989 (10. 02. 89) (Family: none)</td> <td>1 - 6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>JP, 57-146399, U (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), September 14, 1982 (14. 09. 82) (Family: none)</td> <td>1 - 6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.	X	JP, 7-38286, A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), February 7, 1995 (07. 02. 95) (Family: none)	1 - 5	A	JP, 64-24900, U (Alps Electric Co., Ltd.), February 10, 1989 (10. 02. 89) (Family: none)	1 - 6	A	JP, 57-146399, U (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), September 14, 1982 (14. 09. 82) (Family: none)	1 - 6
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.												
X	JP, 7-38286, A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), February 7, 1995 (07. 02. 95) (Family: none)	1 - 5												
A	JP, 64-24900, U (Alps Electric Co., Ltd.), February 10, 1989 (10. 02. 89) (Family: none)	1 - 6												
A	JP, 57-146399, U (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), September 14, 1982 (14. 09. 82) (Family: none)	1 - 6												
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.														
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "&" document member of the same patent family														
Date of the actual completion of the international search March 24, 1997 (24. 03. 97)		Date of mailing of the international search report April 1, 1997 (01. 04. 97)												
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office Facsimile No.		Authorized officer Telephone No.												

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (July 1992)

THIS PAGE BLANK (USPTO)